WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An alkaline storage battery comprising a negative electrode, a positive electrode comprising nickel hydroxide as a positive electrode active material, and an alkaline electrolyte, wherein the negative electrode comprises (a) a hydrogen absorbing alloy represented by $Ln_{1-x}Mg_xNi_{y-a}M_a$ (where Ln is at least one element selected from rare earth elements, M is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Al, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, Mn, Fe, Co, Ga, Zn, Sn, In, Cu, Si and P, $0.05 \leq x < 0.20$, $2.8 \leq y \leq 3.9$ and $0.10 \leq a \leq 0.50$) and (b) carbon as a conductive agent, and hydrogen content in the hydrogen absorbing alloy is not greater than 0.01 weight % when the battery is activated and is discharged to 1.0 V at one hour rate (It).

2. An alkaline storage battery comprising a negative electrode, a positive electrode comprising nickel hydroxide as a positive electrode active material, and an alkaline electrolyte, wherein the negative electrode comprises (a) a hydrogen absorbing alloy represented by $Ln_{1-x}Mg_xNi_{y-a}M_a$ (where Ln is at least one element selected from rare earth elements, M is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Al, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, Mn,

Fe, Co, Ga, Zn, Sn, In, Cu, Si and P, $0.05 \leq x < 0.20$, $2.8 \leq y \leq 3.9$ and $0.10 \leq a \leq 0.50$) and (b) carbon as a conductive agent, and water content in hydrogen absorbing alloy is not greater than 0.13 weight % when the battery is activated and is discharged to 1.0 V at one hour rate (It).

3. The alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the carbon is acetylene black and/or ketjen black.

4. The alkaline storage battery according to claim 2, wherein the carbon is acetylene black and/or ketjen black.